



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 03

Match 2024

March Happenings:

-SADRC Meeting 15 Mar. Lupe's 9-11 AM
-St Patrick's Day Hamfest, Midland 16 March

-Fox Hunt, Saturday February 17, 0900-1200 McAllister Park, 13102 Jones Maltsberger Rd, 78247, Contact John McJilton, N5ETS.

POTA at Mission San Jose, February 17, 0900-1200.

-SARC Tailgate, March 23.

VE Radio Winner

Jon Aprill, KI5CSK presents the Cray Lester radio to winner, Howard Grimes, at the latest VE session.



Cray K5MUG (SK) used to buy Baofeng handhelds to present to one of the new technicians who passed their exams at a club VE session. The club has continued his tradition using funds from the sale of equipment Cray's family donated, supplemented as needed from club funds. Having a new radio encourages new hams to get on the air.

Newly-minted hams who pass their tests at the SARC VE session are also awarded one year's club membership.

The next meeting, March 14, 2024, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Program: Winlink, by Lloyd Swartz, KC5ZHW

First Contact Award



Karen Luisi, KJ5DDY, receives a "First Contact Award" from her Elmer, Jimmie Neff, WJ4M. Karen had just set up

her HF station. Although she had been on the local repeater, even served as net control on the Monday night AARO net, she hadn't used her new General licence on HF. Jim used an Elecraft KX3 QRP rig on batteries, contacted Karen on 20 meters from her driveway for her first HF contact. She's been busy working the bands since. You can check her setup on her QRZ page.

The "ARRL First Contact Award" is available for downloaded from the ARRL web site as a PDF that can be filled in and printed by the ham first contacted. It marks a milestone in a new ham's journey through the airwaves.

The 2024 Robert A. Rodriguez Scholarship Fundraiser is here! 5 chances to win hot selling Yaesu Radios. Only 400 tickets sold @ \$25 each. Drawing is November 14, 2024 at the club meeting.

To purchase a ticket: Mail check to: San Antonio Radio Club PO Box: 34263 San Antonio, TX 78265-4263 Ticket will be mailed to you or PayPal treasurer@w5sc.org be sure to include your name, phone # & call sign. 210-642-9391 or Treasurer @w5sc.org. For more info see the club web page at: w5sc.org

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
03	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		March 2024
TO							

Hello South Texas,

On April 8, 2024, at about 1:30 PM the Total Eclipse will pass over our area. Depending on where you are you will either miss totality if you are at the Alamo or witness over 4 minutes and 26 seconds of totality in Kerrville. Use the interactive map below to determine the experience at your location.

Wherever you are, get on the air! HamSCI needs operators. A link to the Solar Eclipse QSO Party is below. Follow the rules, get on the air and have fun!

Be, safe! Before and after totality you must wear safety glasses. If you do not have some, buy them now!

Many localities and counties have declared disaster declarations. Please help those coordinating the responses. In the Kerrville/Ingram area there are about 22,000 permanent residents. This event will add between 200,000 to 450,000 more people for a single event depending on the cloud cover.

Interactive Solar Eclipse Map

https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/statemap.html

Solar Eclipse QSO Party Rules

<https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>

Take care and be safe!

Paul Guido, N5IUT, SARC President

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
 President, San Antonio Radio Club
 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
 Editor
 210-563-2121
jineffjr@sbcglobal.net

The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., February 8, 2024

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: Pete Carpenter set up his Parks on the Air equipment setup on display and explanation how he put together his go-box. April 20, 2024 Spring POTA event sponsored by the club. Details to come.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions, corrections, or deletions, minutes were approved with change without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – April 8th will be solar eclipse day, and some agencies will be looking for support to manage the crowds anticipated to gather in areas within the path of the eclipse. Kendall County Amateur Radio Club (KARS) will be working with the Sheriff's Department. First foxhunt for the club is scheduled for February 17, 2024. Details to be announced via groups.io.

Vice President – Robert Richter, W5ENG – No report.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – Robert E. Rodrigue scholarship raffle tickets available. \$25 each. Max tickets to be sold: 400. Updated the membership on the club's finances.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – No report.

Education and Training – Vacant – No report. If interested, contact the club President.

Emergency Communications – David Rice – No report.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of: 2/9/24

Paid 122	New Members		
Mil 5	First	Last	Call
Family Members 16	Robert	Chatham	WG1C
Radio Fiesta-Free 6	Oscar	Hernandez	KJ5DXL
Free-VE 9	Lee	Gaffner	AI5NS
Total membership 158			

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

1. Web Site – Posted newsletters, added info re: tailgate and a flyer
2. Updated membership list; Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook - Meeting notice
6. Groups.io: published 2024 calendar of ham events

POTA - No report. No point of contact for this. If interested, contact a Board member.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed and posted to website on February 7, 2024. Invited members to contribute information, photos, and stories for the newsletter. Deadline is Monday prior to the meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: Will be checking out the equipment for the summer event.

Finance and Review – Kelly Randal WB5MZT: Books audited. No problems found.

JOTA – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – Souvenirs (patches, challenge coins, pins) from the club's 2019 centennial year are still available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Absent, but information provided by club president. Scheduled for July 19-20, 2024. A demonstration trailer from CPS will be present to demonstrate electrical safety on Saturday of the event. Emergency Coordinator for Schertz will support the event and first responders will be admitted at no charge.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – Not present. Next testing session: February 24, 2024.

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Some new items added. Sold items at a ham radio fest.

Monthly Activities – Foxhunt 2/17/24.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report.

Scholarship Committee – Radio prizes purchased. Tickets for sale.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements – None

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:21 PM



Volunteer Examiners at Work



The next testing session will be April 22 at 12:00 .at the Leon Valley Public Library, 6425 Evers RD, Leon Valley, TX 78238. Check the web page for more information about testing sessions. Pre-register at HamTest@w5sc.org . If you plan to test, be sure to pre-register.

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Team Lead:

Maritime Morse Station Lives



In the early days of radio, you had Morse Code, no voice. Commercial Morse stations were owned by companies formed to provide communication services much like the cell phone companies today. Even on ships, the gear was owned, and operators employed by the communication company, not the ship owner. The radio room on the Titanic was owned and operated by the Marconi Wireless Company. As commercial ships were equipped with “wireless equipment” and operators, it was necessary to have shore-based stations to communicate with those ships. This is the story of one of those stations, KPH in California.

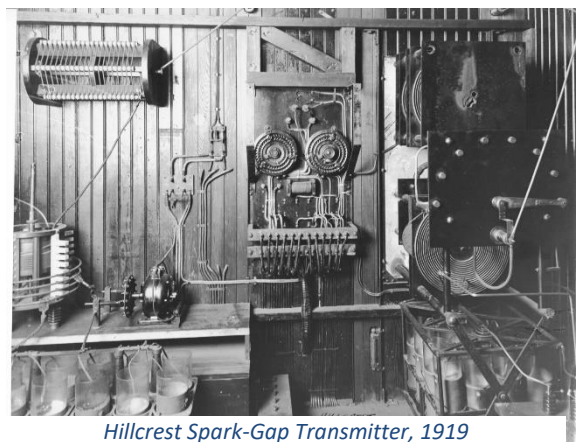
(From an article in the March, 2024, *Atlantic Magazine*) “Nestled within the Point Reyes National Seashore, north of San Francisco, KPH Maritime Radio is the last operational Morse-code radio station in North America. The station—which consists of two buildings some 25 miles apart—once watched over the waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Both KPH sites shut down in 1997, but a few years later, a couple of radio enthusiasts brought them back to life. The crew has gotten slightly larger over the years. Its members call themselves the “radio squirrels.” Every Saturday, they beep out maritime news and weather reports, and receive any stray messages. Much of their communication is with the SS Jeremiah O’Brien, a World War II-era ship permanently parked at a San Francisco pier.”

The story of KPH is a fascinating one, at its end intertwined with amateur radio in its present day form. When the station was scheduled to close in July, 1999, two men, Tom Horsfall and Richard Dillman, resolved that the tradition of commercial maritime

Morse should not be “...relegated to the dustbin of history.” They visited the the KPH transmit and receive sites in Bolinas and Point Reyes, closed for two years, and found an intact radio time capsule. All receivers were still on, maintaining a watch on the Morse calling channels.

Maritime Radio Historical Society. They formed an organization to repair, restore and operate KPH as a way to honor the men and women who for a hundred years had made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill. The stations were part of the Point Reyes National Seashore. They petitioned the National Park Service which gave the go-ahead. Since then they and a group of dozens of volunteers, calling themselves “Radio Squirrels,” have succeeded in not only returning KPH to the air, but also former stations KSM, KFS and amateur station K6KPH.

(Remainder is from the MRHS web page) The station we now know as KPH began life in 1905 as station PH of the United Wireless Company. The PH derived from the location of the station, the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. 1906 was not a good year for San Francisco and the Palace Hotel and much of the city was destroyed in the great earthquake and fire. The station moved to a location on Green Street in San Francisco but the noise of the rotary spark gap transmitter



Hillcrest Spark-Gap Transmitter, 1919

was too much for a residential neighborhood. When United Wireless failed its assets, including PH, were acquired by the Marconi Wireless Company of America. They moved

the station to Hillcrest above Daly City (south of San Francisco). During that period international regulations were adopted assigning call sign prefixes to the countries of the world. As a result PH became KPH, the call sign it retains to this day. The assets of the Marconi Wireless Company of America were acquired by the newly formed Radio Corporation of America. In 1920 KPH was moved to the already existing point to point station in Marin County, north of San Francisco, with the transmit site at Bolinas, CA and the receive site at Marshall, CA. Like all communications facilities, control of KPH was assumed by the military at the beginning of US involvement in WWII. Post war KPH moved again, this time with the receivers at the point to point receive site built in 1930 at Point Reyes. The transmitters remained in Bolinas. In an economy move, KPH controlled sister station WCC (Cape Cod, MA) remotely, making all the WCC operators redundant. As traffic levels declined after the Viet Nam war KPH was purchased by Globe Wireless, operators of KFS and longtime KPH competitors. On 30 June 1997 operations ceased at KPH Bolinas/Point Reyes as circuits were transferred to the Globe Wireless facilities.

KPH as we now know it began operations after WWII with transmitters in Bolinas, CA and receive and control points at the shortwave point to point receive station constructed in 1930 at Point Reyes. At first the opera-



tions room occupied the former lunch room at the receive site (causing no little resentment among the point to point men already in residence).

There were two operating positions covering the long wave, medium wave and shortwave frequencies the station used. When new, AC operated point to point receivers were installed on the second floor of the building the batteries and motor-generators that were needed for the older DC operated receivers were removed.



The KPH operating room moved into this newly available space and expanded to six operating positions. Operations later expanded to include SITOR operations. KPH traffic levels peaked during the Viet Nam war as the US brought many Morse equipped ships out of retirement to supply that conflict. As traffic levels declined KPH was eventually purchased by Globe Wireless, operator of KPH competitor KFS. KPH operations ended at Bolinas/Point Reyes on 30 July 1997 as station manager Jack Martini transferred the circuits, one by one, to the Globe Wireless facilities. It was, he said, one of the worst days of his life. The station, like so many others, was left for dead, the iconic KPH call sign now owned by the former competitor.



ferred the circuits, one by one, to the Globe Wireless facilities. It was, he said, one of the worst days of his life. The station, like so many others, was left for dead, the iconic KPH call sign now owned by the former competitor.

A photograph showing two police officers in tactical gear, including helmets and vests, working on a utility structure. They are using tools to adjust or secure components on a metal frame against a clear blue sky.





SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

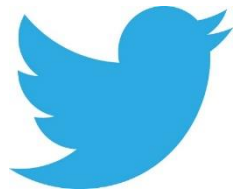
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

SARC Meeting Dates for 2024

January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
March 14, 2024
April 11, 2024
May 8, 2024
June 13, 2024
July 11, 2024
August 8, 2024
September 12, 2024
October 10, 2024
November 14, 2024
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper

Radio Fiesta 2024

Radio Fiesta 2024 will be at Schertz Civic Center on July 19/20. Hours are 1-8PM Friday, 8AM to 2 PM Saturday with 0700 setup for vendors and tailgaters. Tickets are \$13 for 2 days pre-event, \$15 at the door. Children, scouts, Military and first responders in uniform free. Students with ID, \$10. Tables are \$25. The 2-day event features seminars and license testing on Saturday., See details at: <https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta-2024-information>

License Testing Dates for 2024

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Field Day 2024

Field Day exercise, June 27 – 28 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty first year. *Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.* Start thinking about Field Day 2024!.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:

Ned Lee, KG5US
RACES Bexar County
210-334-3481/210-391-8258

Daniel Rice, NB5K
ARES Bexar County EC 210-347-8623